

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 12, 2014

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Paul Shapiro, Shawn Santasiere, Vera Ward, Corinne Tagliarina (guest), John Carrington (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 by Stoddard.

Introductions were made as this was the first meeting for John Carrington, the new Mansfield Director of Public Works. Corinne Tagliarina attended on behalf of Rich Miller.

The acceptance of the January 8, 2014 meeting minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Painter stated that a draft of the plan of conservation and development may be ready to pass on to the sustainability committee by Friday. The sustainability committee will have four weeks to review and provide feedback. After input from various town committees, the Mansfield Tomorrow advisory groups will review the plan and comments. The draft plan will then go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review. There will be a 65 day public comment period. Painter and Kaufman stated that they are hoping to have an open house prior to the Town meeting. It was decided to schedule a special meeting on March 5, 2014 for the sustainability committee to discuss member feedback. The recommendations will then be further refined at the March 12, 2014 regular meeting.

Walton reported that she spoke to the Town of Middlebury's first selectman, Ed St. John, about the bike path that was built in conjunction with the Middlebury's water line. His suggestion was to build the bikeway on the state right of way, rather than in the road, to avoid disruption to the road. Although the Connecticut Water Company has control over the placement of the line, Hart, Painter and Carrington are the Town liaisons and will discuss this with them. There may be environmental impacts by putting it in the right of way rather than in the road. Staff will look into funding opportunities and will coordinate with UConn and the Connecticut Water Company. Tagliarina will talk to Rich Miller about advocating for a bike path along Rte 195 with UConn officials. Stoddard will contact DOT to find out what funding may be available. The water line/bike path will be placed on next month's agenda.

Tagliarina reported on UConn's activities beginning with Green Game Day on Sunday, February 23. The third Climate Impact, Mitigation and Adaptation conference (CIMA3) is scheduled for March 31, 2014 from 9 am to 1:30 pm. Kurt Spalding, from EPA Region 1, will be the featured speaker followed by a forum on how climate change affects different systems and a CIMA café with poster session. Eban Goodstein, an environmental educator who works with the clean energy movement, will give a closing speech focused on student activism around climate change. UConn's Spring Fling is scheduled on Earth Day, April 22. The University is working on a new master plan, which has provided the Office for Environmental Policy an opportunity to provide sustainability input. Miller may do a presentation on UConn's environmental activities to the Conservation Commission, in which other town committees will be invited to attend.

Walton reported that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee has developed zero waste strategies that they are beginning to work on. The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority has offered to send a letter to the residents in Mansfield who were interested in the solarize program, but did not proceed with a solar installation (about 400 households). The letter will inform them of the financial incentives available for energy efficiency upgrades.

Kaufman reported that there will be a vocational agriculture tour at EO Smith on March 19, 2014 as part of the Mansfield Tomorrow project.

Fairview Farms, a dairy farm in Woodstock, is looking for municipalities and businesses that are interested in purchasing electricity that will be generated from their proposed anaerobic digestion process. A spokesperson from the project would like to come to a future committee meeting to present their proposal.

Painter stated that Safe Routes to School will be funding a bike path from Route 195 to Southeast School.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton